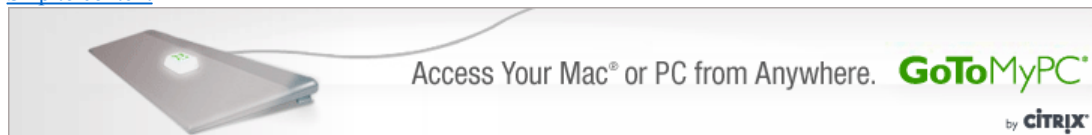


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**Susan Arbetter**

Capitol Reporter WCNY, Central NY Public Broadcasting  
[About Susan Arbetter](#)

## **Senate Dems opening hand**

March 23, 2010 at 5:53 am by Susan Arbetter

They have been contemplating the Governor's budget since January.

On Monday, the Senate Democrats responded with their first hand in the game of poker that is the annual negotiation of New York's budget plan.

### **Here is a quick glance:**

Vote to adopt: RESOLUTION PASSED 32 – 29 (1 member sick)

Executive Budget is 134 billion

Senate budget is 136.2 billion — \$100 million more than governor's, but keeps spending under rate of inflation

Total cut of \$4 billion dollars

**Elephant in the room:** NY with a 9 billion dollar deficit and growing

**Gov reax** – Happy that Senate Dems have accepted the cuts to education & healthcare

### **PLAN BY SENATE DEMS –**

Adopted by a straight party line vote == NO to Ravitch Plan == will close budget gap, they say.

NO prop tax cap & YES to education cuts

CUTS State Agencies inc HEALTH DEPT.

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**Note:** The Times Union is not responsible for posts and comments written by non-staff members.



## **Recent Comments**

- **UPDATED — A Primary for Breslin? (\$)**
  - **Phil:** Breslin is an arrogant prig. Right now I would vote for Sponge Bob ver him!

NO new taxes  
Increases spending by \$3 billion dollars  
Pushes some costs into later years

**REAX BY SENATE REPUBS** – Republicans slammed the blueprint as fiscally irresponsible, filled with gimmicks and temporary one-shot maneuvers that is \$1.5 billion in the red and ignores the brewing fiscal problems already projected over the next several years. (Buff News)

## EDUCATION

CUT by \$1.4 billion – but in areas different than executive budget

**Reax –**

NYSBA “Could cost 14000 teachers jobs”  
Council of School Supervisors “Unconscionable”  
United Federation of Teachers “Disaster” (NYTIMES)

Note: *There is currently no district-by-district breakdown for state aid for schools.*

- Eliminates new unfunded mandates costing \$600 million dollars

## HEALTHCARE

CUT by \$641 million (less than the governor’s 1 billion dollar cut) – an overall reduction of 1.3% to healthcare  
HEALTH DEPT total budget \$55.9 billion

Gross receipts tax takes a hit, bad for homecare

## RESTORATIONS

Parks  
SUNY and CUNY  
STAR property tax rebate program for senior citizens/no circuit breaker

## REVENUE INCREASERS–

\$700 million from the refinancing of tobacco bonds,  
\$15 million from Legalizes Medical Marijuana  
\$250 million in re from uncollected taxes on tobacco sales on Indian land  
\$ Legalizes mixed martial arts  
\$ Impose an excise tax on little cigars  
\$ Impose sales tax on hotel rooms booked over the Internet

## Amt of REVENUE NOT INCLUDED by Dems, but proposed by Gov:

TOTAL — 954 million

NO taxing sugary drinks  
NO to raising the cigarette tax by 1-dollar to 3.75  
NO to allowing groceries to sell wine

## UPSTATE NY

Would allow University of Buffalo to set its own tuition levels  
Keeps college tuition grants level

## ORDA:

Cuts 20% or 6.6 million to the Olympic Redevelopment Authority

## Prisons & Corrections:

3 to close/1 open

Kept open: Ogdensburg Correctional Facility kept open  
Close: Moriah Shock Incarceration Facility, Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility and the minimum-security portion of Butler Correctional Facility would close.

- [Pam](#): It is my understanding that Mr Martland’s departure from DCJS to the Governor’s Office was not...
- [Mike in Albany](#): “If you elect me, I will fight to get our deficit under control and stop spending your money...

### • [Garlic Lovers Corner = Love \(9\)](#)

- [Celine](#): I’ve eaten there twice and LOVED it!! My dh and I are going there on our 33rd wedding anniversary!!

### • [An irony that does more than sting \(1\)](#)

- [kate](#): Another big problem with the governor’s budget is he wants to put the Crime Victims Board under DCJS...

### • [Definition of Witness Tampering \(3\)](#)

- [another Kate](#): I read an article on the website of a downstate paper today that quotes former prosecutors saying there...
- [Mike in Albany](#): Didn’t he also call her on the phone and speak with her directly? What was said during that...
- [Kate](#): I think that the issue hinges on the second question: That the person used intimidation/physical force against...

### • [And now, about that 8 billion dollar budget gap... \(6\)](#)

- [DaveTOO](#): #5, most everyone is.

### • [What if the NYTimes isn’t done with Paterson? \(8\)](#)

- [Darren](#): Maybe the Gray Lady will continue to pound paterson while the TU soft peddles Cuomo? That might be it.

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- [Capital Region](#)
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Will not require DNA records from misdemeanor offenders.

#### **Parks:**

Kept open: Including the John Brown Farm State Historic Site

#### **Environment & Adks:**

Restores: Environmental Protection Fund, which Paterson has proposed cutting to \$143 million, Dems keep it stable at \$222 million.

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- [\[+\] 2008](#) (180)
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